



Description: Newly constructed I-85 North bridge over the Yadkin River

Bridge Size: 0.55 miles long, 72 feet wide

Prime Contractor: Flatiron-Lane, a joint venture team of Flatiron Constructors Inc. of Firestone, Colo. and The Lane Construction Corp. of Cheshire, Conn.

Benefits:

- More Efficient – The new I-85 North bridge is four lanes wide – twice as wide as the old I-85 North bridge. The additional lanes will greatly improve traffic flow for the more than 60,000 vehicles that use it every day.
- Safer – The new I-85 North bridge has 12-foot-wide shoulders. There are virtually no shoulders on the old I-85 North bridge. When accidents occurred, traffic backed up for miles, making it difficult for emergency crews to reach the scene.
- Longer Lasting – The new I-85 North bridge is built to modern design standards to accommodate the drivers of today and tomorrow. The old bridge was built in 1955. It had exceeded its lifespan and needed to be replaced.

Interesting Facts:

- The new I-85 North bridge is comprised of 38,000 tons of concrete and 1,700 tons of reinforced steel.
- If each girder that supports the new I-85 North bridge was laid end to end, they would stretch almost 4 miles.
- At peak construction, more than 200 people worked 24 hours a day, six to seven days a week on the project.

New I-85 North Lanes

- To connect drivers to the new I-85 North bridge, NCDOT is opening two new lanes of I-85 North. They span 3.3 miles from north of Long Ferry Road (Exit 81) to north of the N.C. 150 interchange.
- More than 30,000 tons of asphalt and 65,000 tons of concrete were used to build the new I-85 North lanes.

Upcoming Milestones:

- July 2012 – Move I-85 South traffic onto the new I-85 North bridge. NCDOT will dedicate two lanes for southbound traffic and two lanes for northbound traffic. This temporary pattern is necessary to complete the widening work on I-85 South.
- Early 2013 – Move I-85 South traffic onto the new I-85 South bridge.

Stay Connected: Visit www.i-85yadkinriver.com or follow twitter.com/ncdot_i85.